

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims is intended to replace all prior versions of the claims. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) An implement comprising:

a handle including a first end and a second end, wherein a length extending between the first and second ends is within a range of about 15.0 inches to about 47.0 inches, and a working end including a top portion and a bottom portion, wherein the first end of the handle is attached to the top portion of the working end; and

a handle-attachment member adapted to extend the handle length, wherein the handle-attachment member includes a handle-attachment member length within a range of 12 inches to 20 inches.

2. (Withdrawn) The implement of claim 1, wherein when the handle length is within the range of about 31.0 inches and about 47.0 inches, the handle-attachment member is within the range of about 12.0 inches and 15.0 inches.

3. (Withdrawn) The implement of claim 1, wherein when the handle length is within the range between about 10.0 inches and 30.0 inches, the handle-attachment member length is within the range of about 16.0 inches and about 20.0 inches.

4. (Withdrawn) The implement of claim 1, wherein the implement is selected from the group consisting of mops, brooms and dusters, long-handled garden implements and rakes.

5. (Withdrawn) The implement of claim 1, wherein the handle is releasably securable to the cleaning member.

6. (Withdrawn) The implement of claim 1, wherein the second end of the handle includes an externally thread section.

7. (Withdrawn) The implement of claim 6, wherein the handle-attachment member comprises an internally threaded section for mating with the externally threaded section disposed on the first end of the handle.

8. (Withdrawn) The implement of claim 1, wherein the handle-attachment member is a grip that comprises one or more flutes.

9. (Withdrawn) A product line comprising:

a plurality of implements, in which each of the plurality of implements has a working end and a corresponding handle, wherein a relationship exists between two or more implements each having different working ends, such that as a length of the working end increases, the length of the corresponding handle decreases.

10. (Withdrawn) The product line of claim 9, wherein each of the implements include substantially the same overall length, calculated by adding the length of the working end and the length of the corresponding handle.

11. (Withdrawn) The product line of claim 9, wherein each of the implements in the product line includes an overall length within a range of about 20.0 inches to about 50.0 inches, calculated by adding the length of the working end and the length of the corresponding handle.

12. (Withdrawn) The product line of claim 9, wherein the different working ends are selected from the group consisting of sponges, bristles and dusters.

13. (Withdrawn) The product line of claim 9, wherein the implements are selected from the group consisting of mops, brooms and dusters.

14. (Withdrawn) The product line of claim 9, wherein the implements are selected from the group consisting of long-handled garden implements and rakes.

15. (Withdrawn) The product line of claim 9, further comprising at least one handle-attachment member releasably securable to at least one of the corresponding handles.

16. (Withdrawn) The product line of claim 9, wherein the length of the corresponding handles is between about 15 inches and 45 inches.

17. (Withdrawn) The product line of claim 9, wherein the length of the working end is less than about 15 inches.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of packing a shipping container with a plurality of implements comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of implements, each implement comprising a handle attached to a working end, the handle including a first end and a second end, wherein the working end comprises a portion which is configured to perform a cleaning function and another portion attached to the first end of the handle, wherein each of the implements includes substantially a same first length comprising a distance from a bottom surface of the working end to the second end of the handle, and a handle-attachment member releasably securable to the second end of the handle;

providing a shipping container; and

disposing the plurality of implements, with the handle-attachment members detached from the second ends of the handles, within the shipping container so that at least one working end is aligned with at least one of another working end and a second end of another implement.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the implements are selected from the group consisting of mops, brooms and dusters, long-handled garden implements and rakes.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein two or more of the implements comprise different working ends.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the handle-attachment member is adapted to extend the implement to a second length comprising a second distance from the bottom surface of the working end to a top end of the handle-attachment member.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the handle-attachment member ranges in length from about 12 inches to about 20 inches.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the handle-attachment member comprises a threaded section for mating with a threaded section disposed on the second end of the handle.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising attaching the handle-attachment members to side surfaces of the handles before the disposing step.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the second length is 70 inches or less.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein a length dimension of each shipping container is no greater than about 40.0 inches.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising placing the shipping container on a pallet.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein a lengthwise dimension of the pallet is about 40.0 inches.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the handle-attachment members are clipped to the side surfaces of the handles.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein during the disposing step at least one working end is aligned with at least one second end.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein during the disposing step said at least one working end is vertically aligned with said at least one of another working end and said second end of another implement.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein during the disposing step the implements are stacked within the shipping container.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein during the disposing step the handles of the implements are aligned in a parallel formation within the shipping container.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein after the disposing step the bottom surface of the working end is near one end of the shipping container and the second end of the handle is near an opposite end of the shipping container.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein a wall dimension of the shipping container is sized just larger than the first length.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein during the disposing step the handle is disposed along the wall dimension of the shipping container.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of providing a plurality of shipping containers and disposing a plurality of implements sized to substantially the same first length within each shipping container.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising the step of disposing the plurality of shipping containers on a pallet.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the first length is within a range of about 40 inches to about 48 inches.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Withdrawn) A method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of implements, each comprising a handle and a working end, the handle including a first end and a second end and the working end including a top portion and a bottom portion,

wherein two or more of the plurality of implements comprise different working ends and the first end of the handle is attached to a top portion of the working end and wherein each of the implements includes substantially the same length, corresponding to a first length, measured from the first end of the handle to the bottom portion of the working end; and

displaying the plurality of implements in a row, wherein at least one of the second ends is substantially aligned with at least one of the bottom portions or another one of the second ends.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the first length is extendable to a second length.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 47, wherein the first length is extendable to a second length through at least one handle-attachment member.

49. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the at least one handle-attachment member comprises an internally threaded section for mating with an externally threaded section disposed on the first end of the handle.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the handle-attachment members range in length from about 12 inches to about 20 inches.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 48, further comprising packaging at least one of the handle-attachment members along a surface of at least one of the handles before the displaying step.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 47, wherein the first length is extendable to a second length through a telescoping member.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the implements comprising different working ends are displayed adjacent one another.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the implements are selected from the group consisting of mops, brooms and dusters, long-handled garden implements and rakes.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the handle is releasably securable to the working end.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the first length is within the range of about 15 inches to about 50 inches.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the handle includes a handle length between about 15 inches and 45 inches.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the working end includes a working end length, measured from a top portion of the working end to a bottom portion of the working end, of less than about 15 inches.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, further comprising hanging the implements from hooks during the displaying step.

60. (Withdrawn) A method for shipping a plurality of implements comprising:

providing the plurality of implements, each comprising a handle, a working end, and a handle-attachment member separable from its corresponding handle, wherein each of the implements is sized to substantially the same length corresponding to a first length and the first length is extendable to a second length through securement of the handle-attachment member to the handle;

providing a plurality of shipping containers, each shipping container including a dimension adapted to accommodate the first length of the plurality of implements;

placing the plurality of implements in the plurality of shipping containers, with each of the plurality of implements sized to the first length and each handle attachment member positioned out of alignment with its corresponding handle; and

shipping the plurality of shipping containers to a destination.

61. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 60, wherein the handle extension member comprises a threaded section for mating with a threaded section positioned on the handle.

62. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 60, wherein two or more of the implements comprise form a product line.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 60, wherein each shipping container includes a lengthwise dimension no greater than about 48.0 inches.

64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 60, wherein each shipping container includes a lengthwise dimension no greater than 40.0 inches.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 60, wherein the length of the handle extension member is between about 12.0 inches and 20.0 inches.

66. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 60, wherein the first length of each of the implements is substantially the same.

67. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 60, wherein the first length of each of the implements is about 40.0 inches.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein a length dimension of each shipping container is no greater than about 48.0 inches.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein during the disposing step at least one working end is aligned with another working end.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of sending the pallet to a destination.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the working end comprises at least one of a portion of a mop, a portion of a broom, a portion of a duster, and a portion of a rake.

72. (Canceled)

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the handle-attachment member is adapted to be attached to the second end of the handle in a parallel alignment to extend the handle.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the second length is in a range between 37 inches to 70 inches.